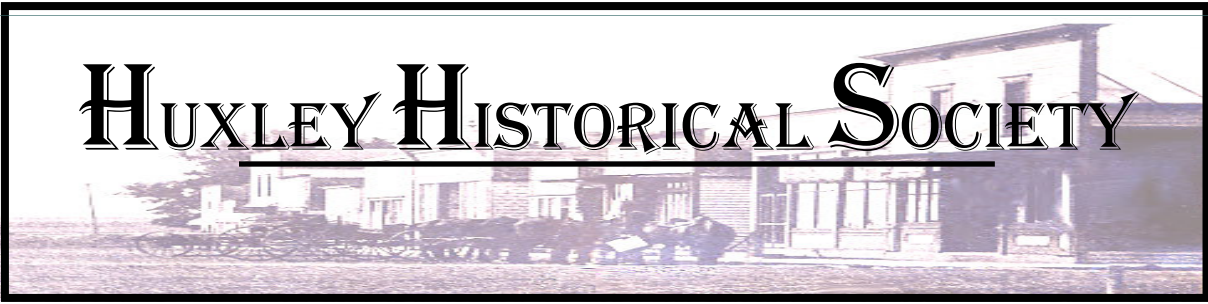


# HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Volume 4 Issue 1

WWW.HISTORY.HUXLEYIOWA.ORG/

1st half - 2011

## 2008 Officers

- **President**—Nels Nord
- **V.P.** — Don Duncan
- **Sec.**—Janet Stoll
- **Treasure**—Scott Petersen
- **Publishing**—Michele Kalsem
- **Officer**—Ron Krull

Meetings are generally the 4th Monday of the month at 6:30 Pm in Council Chambers.

## 2011 Calendar:

**Next meeting** March 21, 2011 Admin office City Hall

## ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER

April 9, 2011

Nord Kalsem Shelter House

## 2011 Calendar:

## THE FJORD RESTAURANT

A story of community, love and good cooking as told to Michele Kalsem by Bonnie and Fritz Erickson. Jan 2008



This is the Fjord like it was in 1966 when we bought it from Daisy Fjelland. It was a house when Daisy and her parents got it and then they built on the front entry. Daisy was so nice to us she stayed on and helped thru that first holiday.

We had never even considered running a restaurant. Fritz was working 3 jobs; he worked for my dad at the standard oil station, he had the bottle gas job and drove school bus. One day when he was filling bottle gas for Elmer (Daisy's dad), Elmer said to Fritz, you and Bonnie should buy it from us "your moms are both good cooks".

Bonnie remembers they went out to eat that night and all she could think was "we could never do that! I had four kids 11, 9, 6 and 4 yrs old. We could never do that." Then she laughed, and said "I guess we did anyway".

"Daisy said we needed a good tree so we went and bought one. I thought it was terrible expensive at the time but we got a lot of good out of it. We used it for years at the Fjord then we would

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**MISSION STATEMENT** :*To engage the Community of Huxley, Iowa in the preservation, education, and celebration of our heritage and ancestry. To preserve for research and education, the artifacts, information, and verbal histories about the lives of the people of Huxley from its pioneer origins to the present day and into our future.*

take it home and use it there. I can remember the kids being so excited about the tree coming home.”

Below is Fritz in the kitchen. “No matter how cold it was we had the windows open year round.” Every Sunday – was the buffet and week nights 5-9 PM we served dinners.

“I can not say enough about our help” Says Bonnie, “we still get Christmas letters from our staff (they are so nice they make me teary) saying how nice it was to work for us and how it was the best first job. If we had time, we goofed but when there was business they were right there.” adds Fritz laughing, “Just the best people.”



“We had what we called smorg plates....they had ribs and chicken and meatballs (Norwegian of course), rice pudding and Lefse ... It was a good meal and just so many good times down there.



“We had so many great folks that worked with us they were truly the best.” The picture in the background was painted by Mable Wee (Mr. Sandves donated it to HHS also) Left standing is Beverly Kalsem and Left seated is Hazel Erickson (Fritz’s mom) on the right Standing is Dorthy Hynd and setting on the left is Bertha Christopher and Carolyn Johnson (Beverly’s Mom).

A lot of times the “Son’s of Norway would eat with us and we set this little “Norwegian” display for them and others.

On holidays when we knew we would be short the regular workers would bring their siblings and friends to help. Denise and Diane Birkestrand started with us one mothers day for that reason, they were probably 8<sup>th</sup> graders then and they worked regularly for us from then till they got a different job. All those girls were super workers.

Fritz recalls, “A lot of folks had a favorite table I can remember Babe always came down from Des Moines with his entourage and he would come into the kitchen and talk to me tell me what to do and NOT. Babe had his own restaurant in Des Moines.” Hee hee Fritz said, “he was such a nice guy. He usually wanted the table just around the corner – we usually gave it to him but he came a little later so it was not a problem.”

Bonnie Remember, “We gave little cakes when they had birthdays (Mrs. Elwell made them – we bought them from her) Mrs. Dahl and Mrs. Ronigan came in for Mrs Ronigan’s b-day it tickled me so she said “If I had known I was going to live this long I would have taken better care of myself”

These photos show the Buffet Viking ships’ head very nicely. The photo on the right, below shows the mast that was up before we had to use the germ guard.” Fritz recalls.



# Annual Meeting & Dinner from the FJORD

Our annual meeting will be held **April 9, 2011 @ NOON @ Nord–Kalsem Shelter** house in Huxley we will be served a traditional meal from the cookbooks of the FJORD restaurant and will be entertained and enlightened by Duane Finch—who will be sharing information about the history of the Fjord Restaurant.

Be sure to **RSVP** with your annual membership using the form on the back of this news letter OR call Nels at 515-231-9174. Please let us know by March 30 so we can make sure everyone gets enough food.

We closed the Fjord in November 1987, it was a great 21 years.

Fritz relates the story of getting the Buffet table ship back. “The Viking Inn (Ankeny) bought it from us when we closed the Fjord. They took it home and he planned to add on to their Inn to house it. We didn’t know that it was not there any more but then Celesta and Ervin Allen heard that some person down at New Virginia had it at a restaurant – they must have gotten it when the Viking Inn closed. So we went down to look around it and see if we could find it – we talked to someone from a restaurant there who thought the owner there had at his home, again waiting for building space to show/use it. At that time I kind of let it go but it was not the first time I had thought about getting it back.



So then at one of the HHS meeting the board was talking about the Fjord and they wanted Fritz to track it down. So we called around,”

“then called around some more” Bonnie Added,

“and finally we found it was in a yard being used as a flower planter. It had been painted and broken. We managed to get it home and Lyle Martin started working on it. Lyle did such a great job I couldn’t be more pleased!”

He sent me this information after he completed the project.

The following are some of the key elements for the restoration project:Removed old finish from the boat, cut strips of wood to insert in the cracks between each of the boards on the sides of the boat because the original wood dried out and was deteriorated. Glued and inserted the wood strips between the side boards, rough sanded and then finish sanded the entire outside of the boat. Made new railings on the top of the boat. Sprayed (3) coats of varnish on entire boat with complete boat sanding between each coat of varnish. Made/carved a new dragon head and dragon tail and assembled to boat.

“Finally, Lyle said, “I stood back and looked at the boat and concluded it really did look like the “Fjord” buffet table I knew many years ago.

**The Historical Society feels lucky to have it and the fabulous story that goes with it.  
Thanks to you all!**

## June Meeting

Meeting was called to order June 28, 2010, at 6:30 by President Nels Nord.

Attendees were Nels Nord, Michele Kalsem, Scot Peterson, Don Duncan, Janet Stoll, Laverne & Elaine Helland, John Hendricks, John Kalsem, Ikey Lee, Ruth Lee, Harriett Sheldahl, Naomi Tomlinson, & Richard Nelson.

Past minutes were read by Sec Stoll.

Treasurer report was given by Treasurer Petersen

The reports were approved as read.

### ***Discussions and Actions on old Business Old Business***

- Nels purchased a Canon hand-held video recorder for the HHS. Motion was made to pay the debt and was approved.
- The fire truck is faded and needs cleaned and waxed. It also is in need of a new place to be stored but is currently being stored in a private Morten building until possibly September.
- Don Duncan has mowed the old cemetery several times and it will need to be sprayed with roundup for weed control.
- HHS will not have a fund raiser this year at Prairie Fest.
- HHS website is back up
- HHS building – City of Huxley will be breaking ground this Fall on a 5,000 square foot building that will be on the site of the 3C's building and police department. This will be a "safe room" building to safe guard the citizens of Huxley from tornados and such. It is possible the HHS will be able to display and store their many collections in this building.

### ***New Business***

- Prairie Fest is August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.
- We plan to use the fire truck only as our float this year at Prairie fest. Also, the Prairie Fest committee has decided there will be no awards for float entrants this year.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter HHS news letter will be mailed within the next couple of days. HHS is considering having a bi-yearly newsletter instead of the quarterly letters.
- John Kalsem brought The Huxonian to the meeting and an excerpt from the "schools" section was read.
- John Kalsem also brought in a shoebox of memorabilia of trinkets from businesses of the past, a couple of Huxley postcards and a copy of a 1915 High School graduation Commencement announcement that was held at the Lincoln church.

Our next meeting will be July 26th at 6:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

## July Meeting

Meeting was called to order July 26, 2010, at 6:30 pm by President Nels Nord.

Attendees were Nels Nord, Scott Peterson, Don Duncan, Janet Stoll, John Hendricks, Arlene Lande, Ikey Lee, Ruth Lee, Harriett Sheldahl

Past minutes were read by Sec Stoll.

Treasurer report was given by Treasurer Petersen

The reports were approved as read.

### *Discussions and Actions on Old Business*

- Prairie Fest is August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.
- We plan to use the fire truck only as our float at Prairie fest. Also the Prairie Fest committee has decided there will be no awards for float entrants this year.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter HHS newsletter will be mailed within the next couple of days. HHS is also considering of having a bi-yearly newsletter instead of quarterly letters.
- John Kalsem brought the Huxonian to the meeting and an excerpt from the “schools” section was read.
- John Kalsem also brought in a shoebox of memorabilia of trinkets from businesses of the past, a couple of Huxley postcards and a copy of a 1915 High School graduation Commencement announcement that was held at the Lincoln church.

Our next meeting will be July 26th at 6:30 pm

### *New Business*

- A local Boy Scouts group will be contacted to see if they are available to clean the HHS fire truck as a service project to get it ready for the Prairie Fest parade.
- Ballard Creek cemetery has been mowed several times since the last meeting.
- Nevada Historical Society currently has a very nice display at the 4-H Fair located at the Nevada fairgrounds. Webmaster Kalsem will be contacting them to see if they would be available/interested in setting up the display for Prairie Fest.
- E-mail was received by Nord from a man who has done extensive research and recording on the old Milwaukee Railroad that went through Huxley. He is inquiring if HHS would be interested in having him set up a display at Prairie Fest. Sec Stoll will make contact with him.
- HHS website is back up
- Viking ship and cabinets are currently being stored at the old fire station on Main street
- Request for approval to order new checks thru the bank – request was approved

Next meeting set for Monday September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 6:30 pm

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## September Meeting

**Call to Order** – Nels Nord

**Read Past Minutes** – Janet Stoll

Meeting was called to order September 27, 2010, at 6:30 by President Nels Nord.

Attendees were Nels Nord, Don Duncan, Michele Kalsem, Janet Stoll, Laverne Helland, Elaine Helland, John Kalsem, Arlene Lande & Ikey Lee

Past minutes were read by Sec Stoll and approved.

Treasurer report was given by Treasurer Petersen and approved

### *Discussions and Actions on Old Business*

- Ballard Cemetery – was last mowed 3 weeks ago and will need to be mowed again; tree fell across the trail and will need to be cut up and hauled away
- 1963 Fire Truck – currently sitting on a city street and needs shelter - Huxley Public Works Director Jeff Peterson is still cleaning out the old fire station on Main street and once completed the fire truck will be stored there
- Annual Meeting – theme – history of the “Fjord”
- Correspondence – Rob Nachazel – Milwaukee Railroad display – approval for thank you and check for \$50.00 to cover traveling expense from Mason City
- Outstanding debt – Approval to make payment to Boy Scout troop 263 for washing/waxing/detailing 1963 fire truck for Prairie Fest parade – motion approved to send \$100.00
- Next HHS meeting set for Monday October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

### *No New Business*

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

#### *OUR PUBLISHING SCHEDULE CHANGES*

As many of you noticed your newsletter has been absent. This was a result of many issues. The lack of meetings was one, the lack of time for editing and publishing were others.

With the financial conditions currently we think it would be more fiscally responsible to reduce our mailings and increase our pages so to that end in 2010 we plan to publish only 2 newsletters instead of 4. The rest of the story from Nords Notes will be published in June/July with our 2nd news letter.

Thanks for your understanding and support. HHS

## NEW MEMBER DRIVE

Do you know someone who would enjoy our newsletter? Let us know we will send them a complementary copy! We also accept gift subscriptions—let us know who to send it to.

Call Michele at 515-450-0764 with the information.



**Do you know someone that has Huxley  
Historical memorabilia?**

**How about photo's or a great life story?**

**Let us know! Call Nels 515-231-9174**

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# ***2nd edition DVD is ready!***

*This DVD includes the 1st edition AND more it can be purchased for \$20 or \$22.50 w/S&H if we need to ship it to you.*

*This awesome DVD contains video stream of Huxley Iowa 1939-1955, Ladies at Ovid Louks Farm, 1955 City streets, 125th Anniversary of Fjeldberg Lutheran Church, Huxley Horse Show, and a 1944 Baseball game in addition to some silliness. Get yours today!*

***The Historical Society would love to have copies of any film you may have or photo's from the past in our community. To purchase a video OR contact us about getting copies from you please contact us at 515-597-3142 or email to [hhs@huxcomm.net](mailto:hhs@huxcomm.net)***



# Thank you for paying your dues. We appreciate it very much.

Please consider joining as a LIFETIME member and never have to worry about renewing again.

A LIFETIME membership is easy (\$500 one time) and it means so much to HHS as we need a safe space to store the heritage we have already acquired AND your input about how best to preserve it. The HHS needs a building and archival quality storage to protect our items. Did you know we have a fire truck? And a 4' x 5' painting? Those are just two of the fabulous treasures we store but we have A LOT more much of which are delicate photo's, fabrics, and papers.

Feel free to use the membership form on the back of this newsletter.

Be sure and come to a meeting when you can because even as we need financial assistance we also need help making good plans for our future. NOT to mention the great stories we share!

The following are Lifetime members who agree with our mission.

**EXTRA THANKS TO DAVID & VERDA TESDALL who inadvertently got left out the last TWO newsletters and for that we are very VERY sorry.**

**John Berhow**

**Homer Kalsem**

**Laverne & Elaine Helland**

**Elizabeth & Javerna Maland**

**Darlene & Robert Hermann**

**Nels & Rowena Nord**

**Dave & Cheryl Kalsem**

**Harriett Sheldahl**

**John & Ann Kalsem**

**Janet & Gary Thompson**

**Dean & Diane Lande**

**David & Verda Tesdall**



## January Meeting

Meeting was called to order January 24, 2011, at 6:35 by Secretary Janet Stoll

Attendees were Scott Petersen, Janet Stoll, John Kalsem, Arlene Lande, Delila Roberts, & Harriet Sheldahl

Past minutes were read by Sec Stoll

Treasurer report was given by Treasurer Petersen

Minutes were approved as read.

### *Discussions and Actions on Old Business*

- Correspondence – Check written to Rob Nachazel has not cleared at the bank – Sec. Stoll will follow-up to check on its status
- Annual Meeting – Kalsem suggested committees be formed at the next HHS meeting to plan the annual meeting and food. Harriet Sheldahl and Delila Roberts will bring their cookbooks to the next HHS meeting in February. The cookbooks are from the Fjord Restaurant.

### *New Business*

- 1963 Fire truck – is now parked in its new home at the Old Fire Station on Main Street in Huxley
- Newsletter – tabled until February
- Annual Meeting – date and reservations is needed for the Nord-Kalsem Shelter
- Huxley Alumni Banquet is set for June 11, 2011

Next Meeting – February 21, 2011 at 6:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

**Renewal time again. Where does the time go?**

Hopefully our group can store time! The dues we collect are instrumental in that process. Thanks!

**See our back page for more information.**

Membership Form—Clip or Copy and Mail

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Circle those that apply please.

Annual 2011	\$20
Family 2011	\$30
Lifetime Membership	\$500
Gift Amount	\$_____
2nd ed. DVD Purchase	\$20
S&H for DVD	\$2.50
Total	\$_____

RSVP annual Meeting **number** attending \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To:

***HHS-515 N. Main Ave-Huxley Iowa. 50124***

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US AT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

PHONE: NELS NORD 515-231-9174

EMAIL: HHS@HUXCOMM.NET

WEB SITE:  
WWW.HISTORY.HUXLEYIOWA.ORG

**HUXLEY**

